

USING HIPPO

to analyze documents



! BEFORE YOU START

- What is the format of the document, and how does the format affect the document's intent or add meaning to the document?
- Who is the author of the document? What prior information do you know about them?
- What point is the document trying to make/ what is the main idea? What information does the document include and/or leave out? What content mentioned in the document is usable by a historian collecting evidence to answer a question?

H HISTORICAL SITUATION

- When and where was the source produced?
- What contemporaneous events might have affected the author's viewpoint and/or message?
- How does the historical situation that the source was produced in affect the reliability of the source?

I INTENDED AUDIENCE

- Who was the source created for?
- How might the audience have affected the content of the source?
- How might the audience have affected the reliability of the source?

P AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

- How does the position of the author in society and/or their relationship to the historical event discussed affect the content of the document?
- Why did the author create the source? Why was the document created at this time?
- Why has it survived to the present?
- How does its purpose affect its reliability or usefulness?

P AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW

- What was the author's point of view?
- Does the author's point of view undermine the explicit purpose of the source?
- How can you tell, if you can tell, what other beliefs the author might hold?

O ORGANIZATION & PLANNING

- How does your analysis of the document answer the prompt and relate to your thesis?
- Does this document corroborate (agree), contradict (disagree), or qualify any of the other documents? What other documents might help better understand the author's point of view? What other documents might offer alternatives to the author's point of view?
- What does the document not tell me? What other sources might fill in the content gaps of this document? What outside information do you know that relates to the document?

how to use

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